

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8057
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07803

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, AORG, PORG, GW, UR
SUBJECT: BAHR VISIT TO MOSCOW: BRANDT COMMISSION

REF: BONN 6168

1. THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRANDT COMMISSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THAT BODY.
2. A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF EGON BAHR INFORMS US THE SPD LEADER WAS PLEASED WITH HIS MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, BAHR, WHO HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH ARBATOV, RAISED IT WITH BREZHNEV DURING HIS COURTESY CALL ON APRIL 18. BREZHNEV, WHO WAS CONVERSANT WITH THE SUBJECT, EXPRESSED INTEREST AND ASKED BAHR TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH PONOMAREV.
3. AFTER DISCLAIMING SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR POST-COLONIAL PROBLEMS, PONOMAREV SAID IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THE WORK OF THE BRANDT COMMISSION. HE INVITED COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES TO MOSCOW FOR TALKS

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WITH THE ECONOMIC INSTITUTE OF THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IN JUNE OR JULY. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, PONOMAREV ASKED THAT BAHR ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING AND HE AGREED TO DO SO.

4. OUR SOURCE STRESSED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE THUS FAR AGREED ONLY TO TALK TO COMMISSION REPS AND NOT TO

PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK. NONETHELESS, BAHR IS SAID
TO REGARD THIS AS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.
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